



# Graphic Novels 101

Ratings – Reviews – Resources  
Why Graphic Novels Matter

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives  
October 11, 2016

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1. Brief History
2. Educational Benefits
3. Collection Development
4. Resources
5. Programs & More...



**We will discuss...**

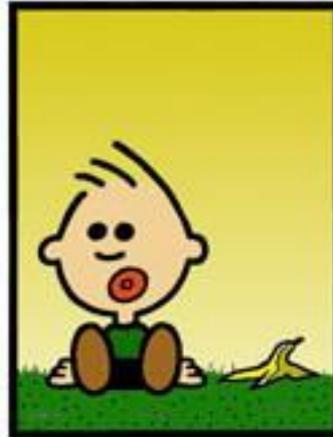
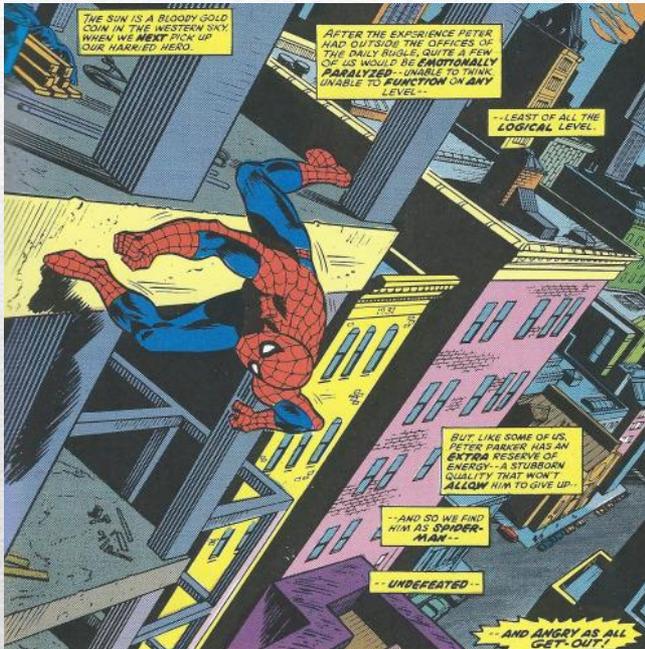
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- ***Comic Strip***: A short sequence of 1 page or less
- ***Comic Book***: Serialized comics appearing in a magazine- sized booklet
- ***Graphic Novel***: Novel –length comics or a collection of comic books that tell a single narrative arc appearing in book form
- ***Manga***: Stylized Japanese graphic novel in which both page and panels are read right to left.
- ***Anime***: Animation of Japanese origin that can share both style and narrative tropes with manga. Not to be confused with a book; is television or film format.

# Definitions to Know

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# How to Read Panels



- *How to read a comic book: appreciating the story behind the art*  
by Alex Abad-Santos, VOX, 2/25/2015  
<http://www.vox.com/2015/2/25/8101837/odv-c-comic-book-panels>
- *Visual Rhetoric/Visual Literacy: Writing About Comics and Graphic Novels*  
by Duke University, Thompson Writing Center  
<http://twp.duke.edu/twp-writing-studio/resources/writing-for-specific-disciplines>

# Reading Western Comics vs Manga

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## Western

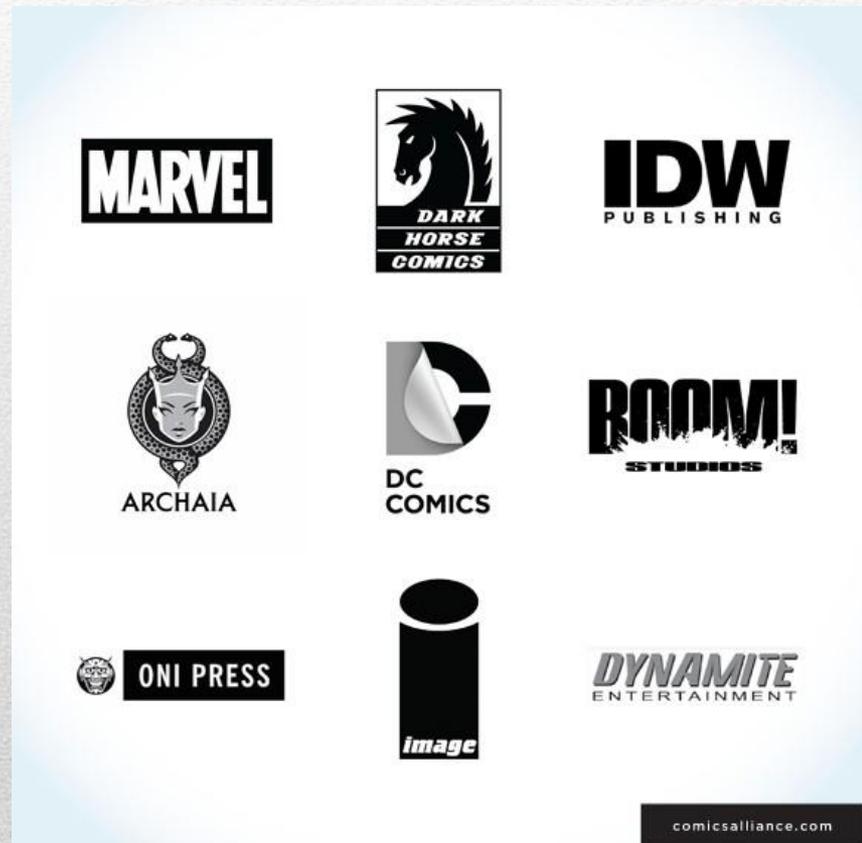
- Reads: L → R
- Usually in full color
- More square panels
- More varied art styles
- Third-person narrative
- More text heavy; narration

## Eastern

- Reads: R → L (“backwards”)
  - Usually in black and white
  - More fluid layout
  - Defined by specific art style
  - First-person narrative
  - Dialog and visuals move story
-

# Major Publishers

- Marvel Comics
- DC Comics
- Dark Horse Comics
- Image Comics
- IDW Publishing
- Gemstone Publishing
- Fantagraphics
- Kodansha
- Viz

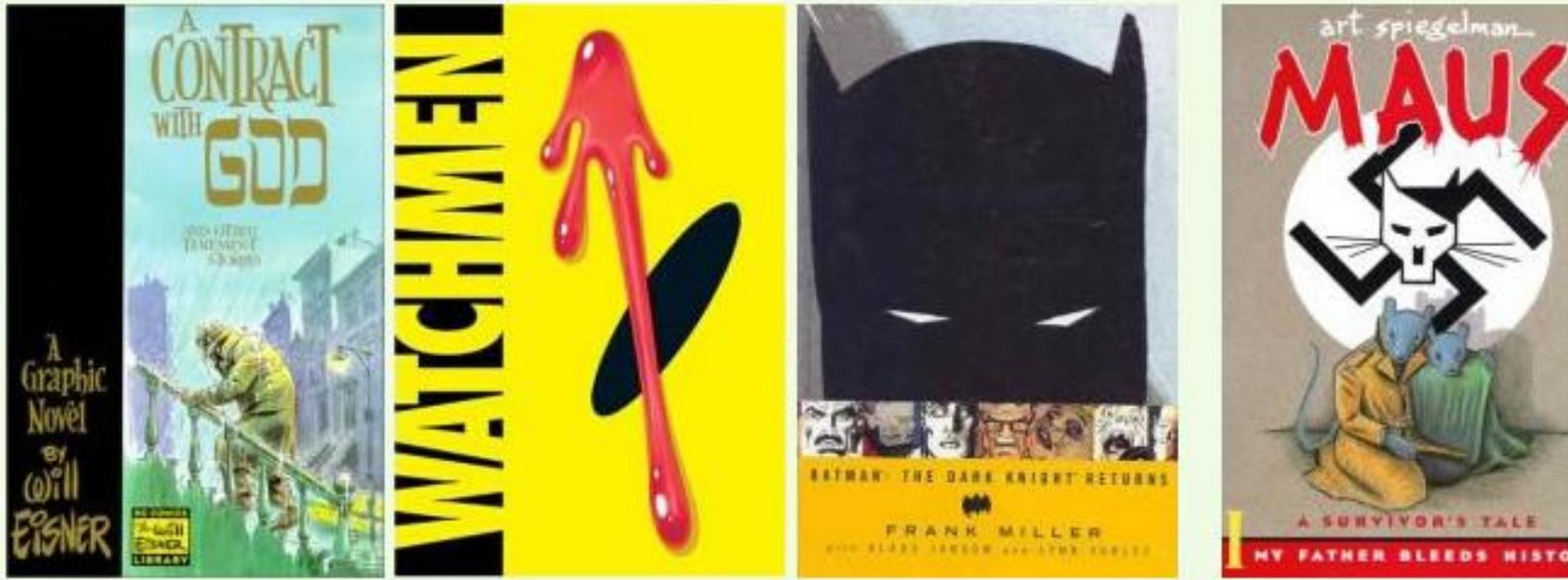




Explicit Content

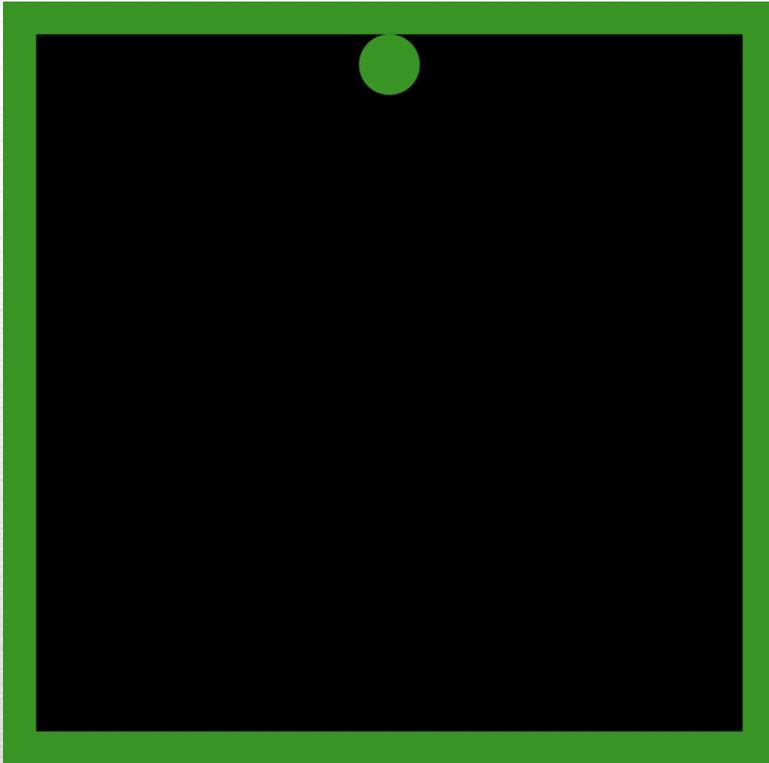
**Graphic does not mean...**

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# A Brief History

(image via: Internet Public Library)

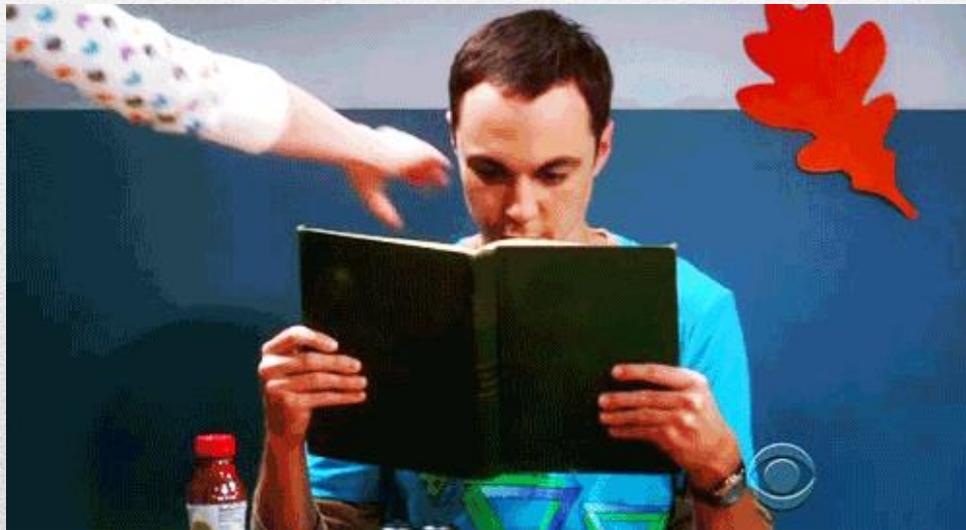


- Reluctant Readers
- Vocabulary Exposure
- Visual Literacy
- Comprehension

# Educational Benefits

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*“Does having read the novelization of the latest superhero movie “count” as having read a book?”*



*“How about a graphic novel based on a line of toys?”*

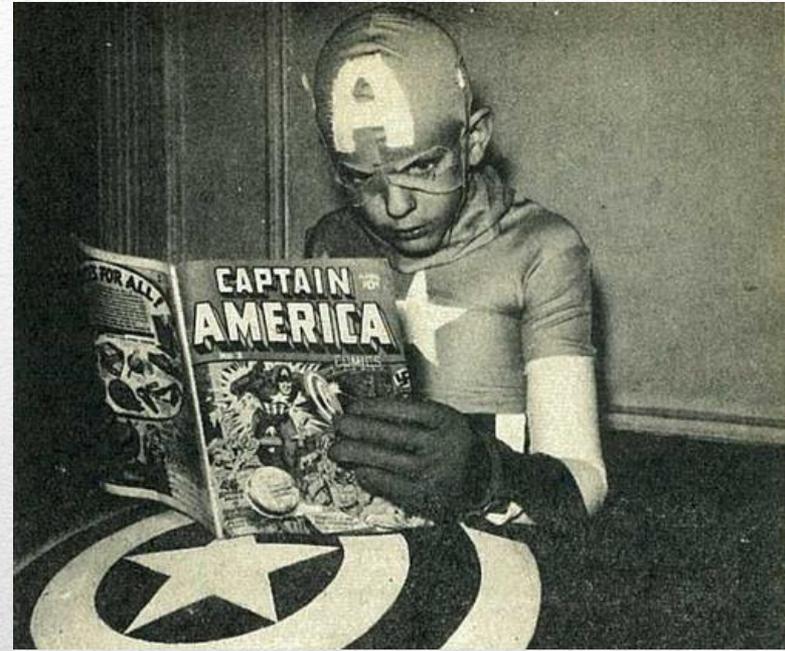
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**The Goosebumps Conundrum: What Makes a Children’s Book Good?**

*The New Yorker*

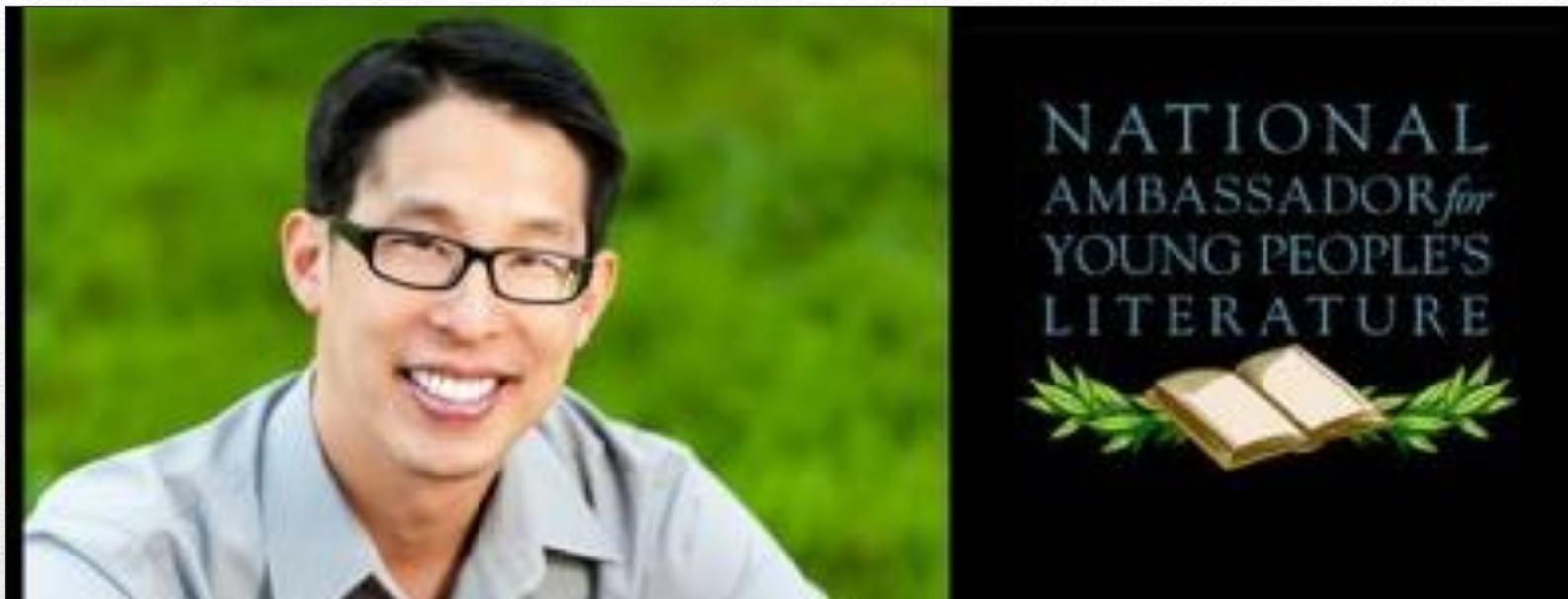
<http://www.newyorker.com/culture/cultural-comment/the-goosebumps-conundrum-what-makes-a-childrens-book-good>

- They give you all the visual stimulation of a movie with the textual experience of a book
- They give you a different way to experience events both fictional and historical
- They engage both the right and left hemispheres of your brain.



# What Graphic Novels Offer

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National Ambassador for Young People's Literature  
2016 MacArthur Genius Grant Honoree

# Meet Gene Luen Yang

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**MacArthur Genius Grantee on Teaching Kids with Comics**

***Washington Post***

**<http://tinyurl.com/h4anul2>**

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READING WITHOUT WALLS

# Curriculum Guides & Discussion Resources



RANDOM HOUSE

TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS

HOME

RESOURCES

AWARDS

READING PROGRAMS

SET UP A VISIT

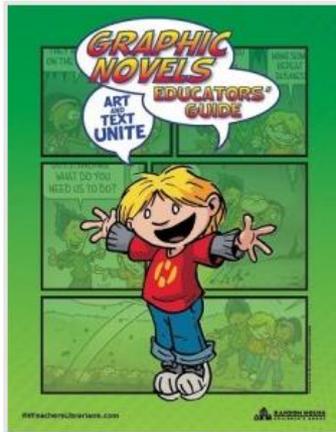
FAQ'S

BLOG

## Graphic Novels Educators' Guide

By: Guide prepared by Teri Lesesne

▶ DOWNLOAD RESOURCE



A comprehensive educators' guide for using graphic novels in the classroom.

### SEARCH

GO

BROWSE BY THEME AND AGE

### NEWSLETTER

Sign up for the latest RH Teachers and Librarians, Junie B. Jones and Magic Tree House news!

SIGN-UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTERS

Random House Children's Books

<http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/>

[Download here](#)

# Curriculum Guides & Discussion Resources

Search KDLA's Catalog for professional titles and more:

<http://kdla.ky.gov/common/Pages/WorldCatDiscovery.aspx>

- **Developing and Promoting Graphic Novel Collections**  
by Steve Miller, Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2005  
Record Link: <http://tinyurl.com/jzmrkc5>
  - **The Reader's Advisory Guide to Graphic Novels**  
by Francisca Goldsmith, American Library Assoc., 2010  
Record Link: <http://tinyurl.com/z4h3q9e>
  - **Comic Book Collections for Libraries**  
by Fagan & Fagan, Libraries Unlimited, 2011  
Record Link: <http://tinyurl.com/jlsywqs>
  - **Wonderfully Wordless: The 500 Most Recommended Graphic Novels and Picture Books**  
by William Patrick Martin, Rowman and Littlefield 2015  
Record Link: <http://tinyurl.com/hq4wvzr>
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# **HOW DO I KNOW WHAT TO BUY FOR MY LIBRARY?**

Best Selection Methods & Tools

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- Split between 3 selectors:
  - Adult
  - Children's
  - Teen
- Input information into a Google Doc Spreadsheet
- Looking at collection as a system
- Sorry Dewey – use stand alone collection codes
  - GN + Author Last Name OR By Series (i.e. GNBatman)

# Selection Practices

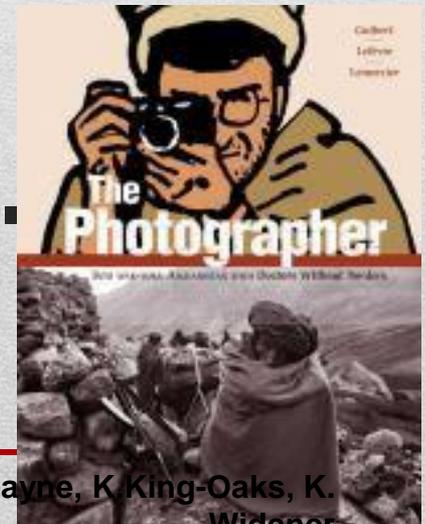
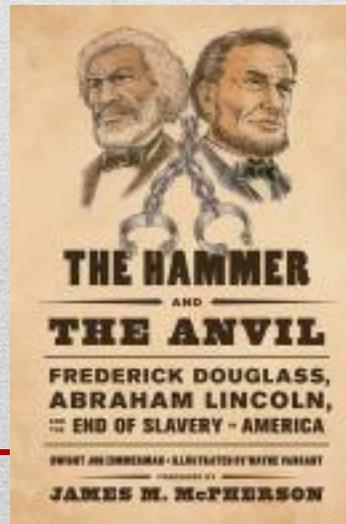
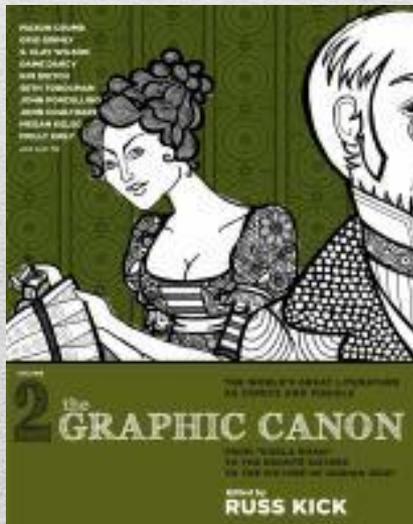
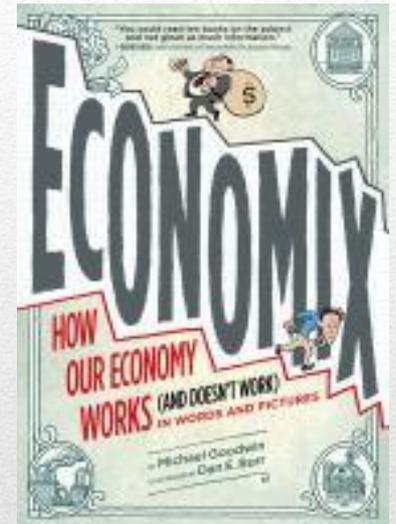
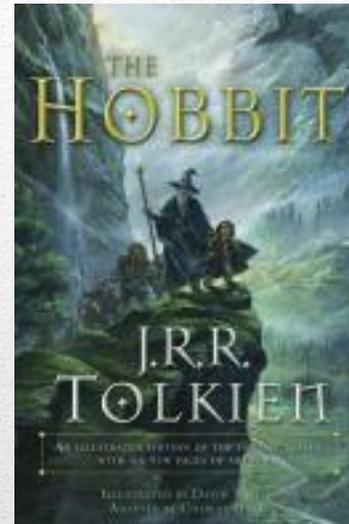
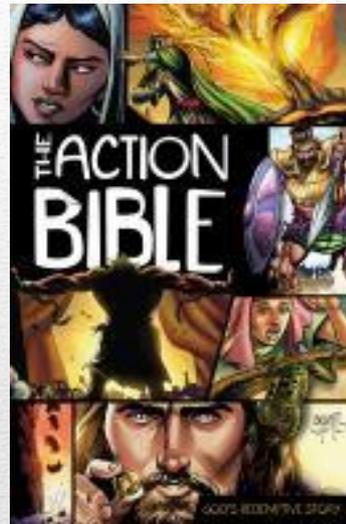
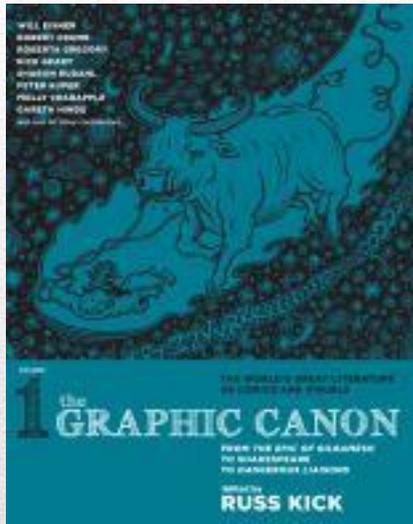
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- Shelf by audience – absolutely DO NOT interfile...
- “But they want the Walking Dead...”
- Graphic Non-Fiction is it’s own genre; shelve accordingly



## **A Note on Ratings (& Censorship)**

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P. Jayne, K. King-Oaks, K. Widener



No offensive material.



**Y (Youth, ages 10+)** – Appropriate for ages 10 and up. May contain violence.



**T (Teen, ages 13+)** – Appropriate for ages 13 and up. May contain violence, profanity, and semi-nudity.



**OT (Older Teen, ages 16+)** – Appropriate for ages 16 and up. May contain violence, profanity, semi-nudity, and some sexual themes.



**M (Mature, ages 18+)** – Appropriate for ages 18 and up. May contain graphic violence, nudity, profanity, sex, and

# Ratings

\*Not necessarily comparable to Western age rating systems

# Yen Press Rating Summary

The goal of the Yen Press rating system is to provide parents, librarians and retailers with as much information about the contents of our books as simply and concisely as possible. Ultimately, opinions about appropriateness of content for a particular reader are a subjective matter likely to vary from person to person. However, this is a useful tool to give readers some sense of what they may expect.

Yen's ratings are structured in two tiers: age ratings (A, T, OT, M) and content indicators (L, V, S, N). Age ratings indicate a maturity threshold below which some parents or guardians may find the content unsuitable. Content indicators provide insight as to the material within the book that prompted a particular age rating. The frequency and/or severity of that material is reflected in the age rating.

## AGE RATINGS



### All Readers

*An "A" rating indicates that the material contained within the book has been deemed unlikely to be found inappropriate for any particular age group.*



### Teen

*A "T" rating indicates that there may be content within a book that some parents or guardians may consider inappropriate for children under the age of 13.*



### Older Teen

*An "OT" rated book contains material that some parents or guardians may consider inappropriate for readers under the age of 16.*



### Mature

*An "M" rated book is intended for a mature readership and may be considered inappropriate for readers under the age of 18.*

## CONTENT INDICATORS

**L** = Language

**S** = Sexual Situations

**V** = Violence

**N** = Nudity



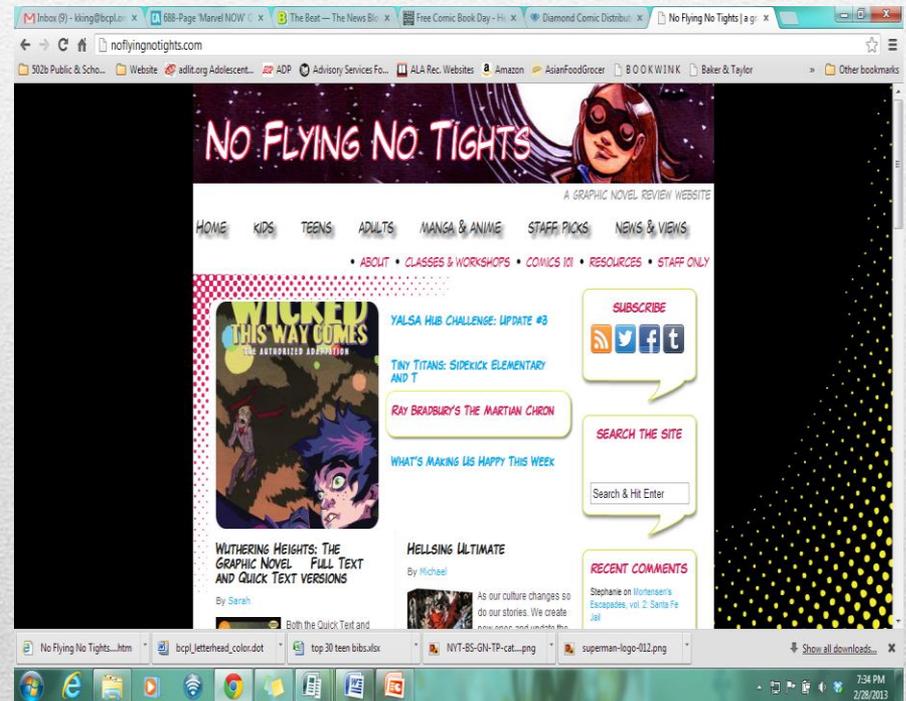
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# Beginner/ Not enough time...

- B&T/Ingram
  - Amazon.com Best Sellers
  - NYT Best Sellers
  - SLJ/PW
  - ALA Lists\*
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# Intermediate/Advanced



# Select like the Pros...

- Get it for free if you tell your favorite comic book shop you're a librarian!
- Published by Diamond Comic Distributors, Inc.
- Best features:
  - Annual Free Comic Book Day preview
  - Top 10 Lists:
    - Graphics
    - Manga
    - DVDs
    - Games (tabletop)
    - Books (F/NF)



- Io9
- iFanboy
- DC Women Kicking Ass
- The Mary Sue
- Bleeding Cool
- Robot 6 @ Comic Book Resources
- The Beat

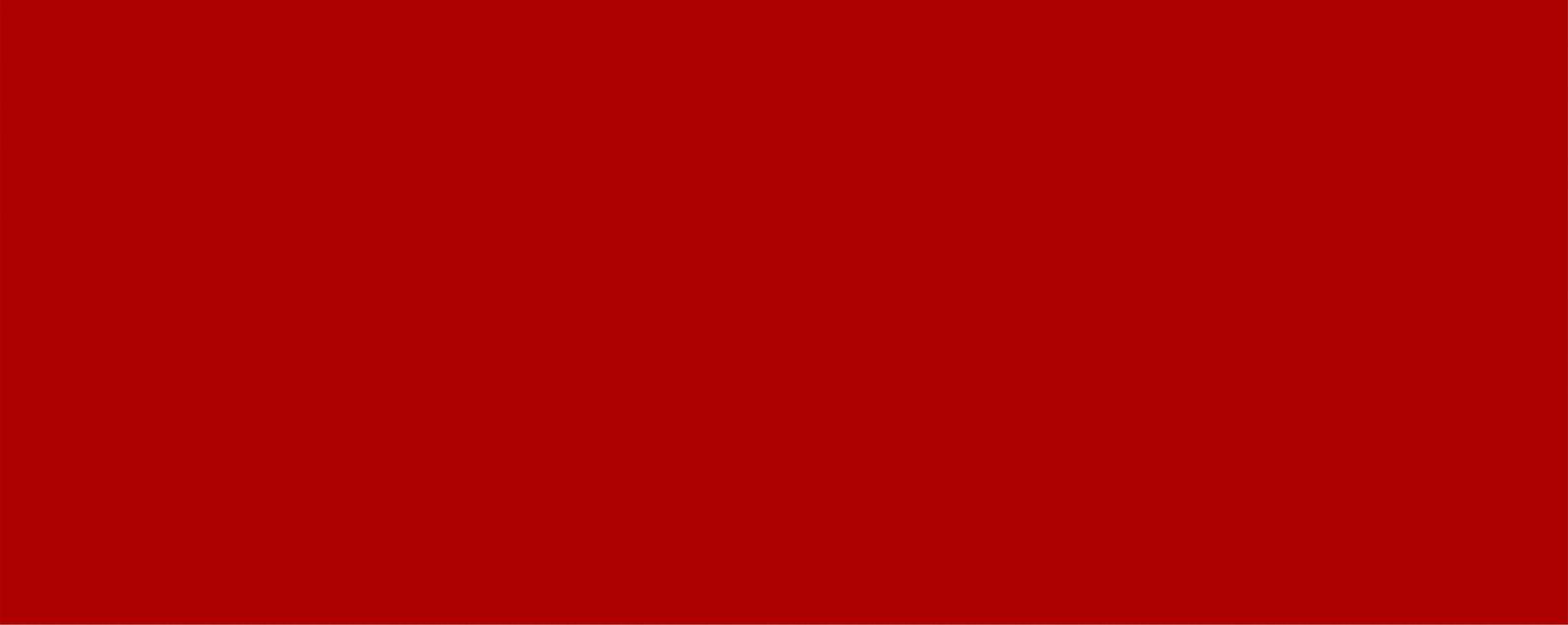
**More blogs to follow...**

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- Good Comics for Kids (School Library Journal)
- No Flying No Tights
- Graphic Novel Reporter
- About.com Manga
- Anime News Network

# More blogs to follow

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# **PROGRAMS & EVENTS**

All Ages Fun for the Whole Family!

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# Teens

- Cosplays
- Tabletop Day
- Gaming clubs
- Geek Pride Day – May 25
- Final Friday Fandom

Kroski, Ellyssa. *Cosplay in Libraries: How to Embrace Costume Play in Your Library.*

Rowman & Littlefield, 2015.

**Library Link Up: Fandom Events**

<http://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/staffdevelopment/Pages/KDLAArchivedWebinars.aspx#linkup>



# Preschool

- Princess Picnic
    - Princess Read-Aloud
    - Make a Tiara
    - Tea Time
    - Write a letter to a Disney Princess
  - Superhero Storytime
    - Hero Read-Aloud
    - Obstacle Course
- 



ALA American Library Association

# INTERNATIONAL GAMES DAY



Game on @ your library!  
Saturday, November 3, 2012

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<http://igd.ala.org/>

**FREE  
COMIC  
BOOK  
- DAY -**

**1st SATURDAY  
IN MAY!**

[www.freecomicbookday.com](http://www.freecomicbookday.com)

TM



# Think outside the ALA/Local circuit...

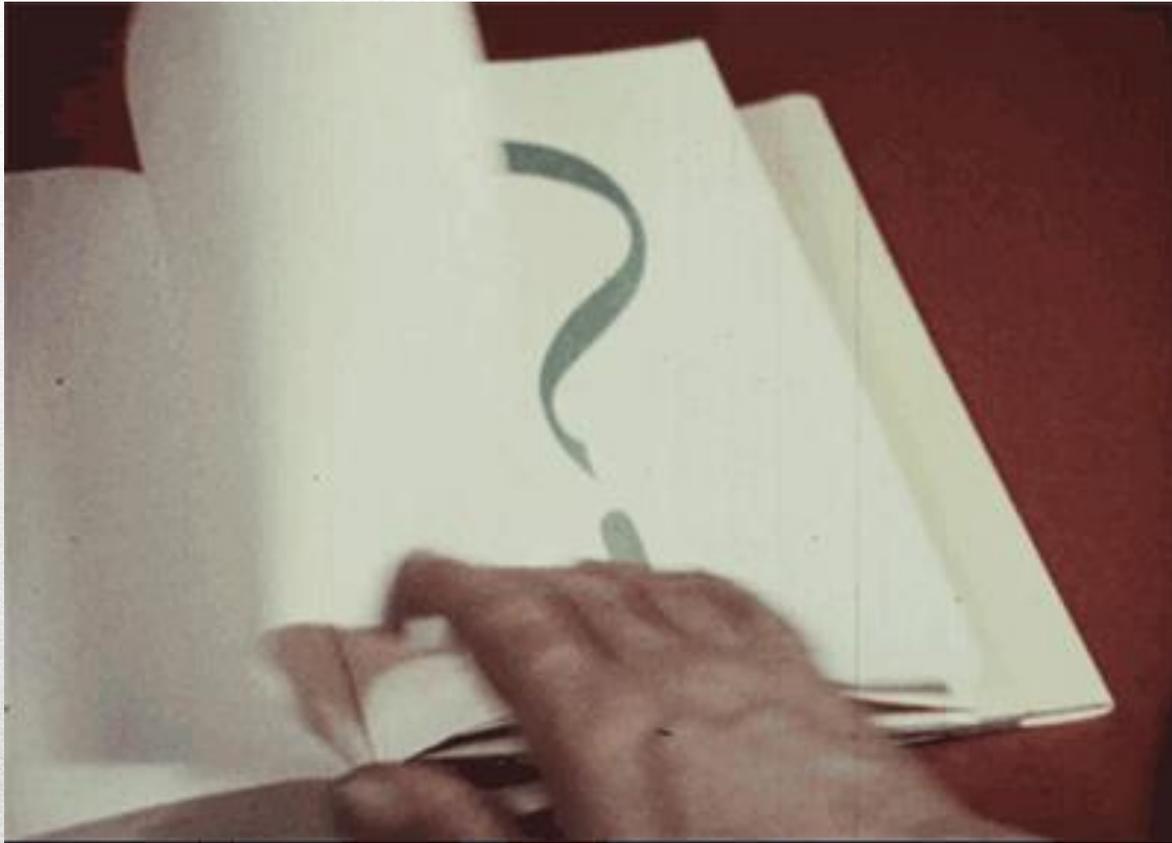
**Conventions:**

- Cincinnati Comic Expo
  - New York Comic Con
  - Comic-Con International: San Diego
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# A Final Reminder...

- You are your best reviewer...
- Promote your collection!
- Frequent your local shops!





**Questions?**

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**WRAP-UP**

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For Public Library Youth Services Librarians & Staff:

- **KYAC** is a discussion list devoted to those who work with children and teens in the library. By using this **LISTSERV®**, individuals from around the state will have the chance to ask questions, share ideas, voice concerns, and make valuable contacts all through their e-mail.
- **TO SUBSCRIBE:** To join the list, send email with the subject "KYAC" to [Krista.King-Oaks@ky.gov](mailto:Krista.King-Oaks@ky.gov). In the body of the message, list your name and the name of your library. You will be emailed instructions for posting to this moderated discussion list.
- See the KDLA website for more information on our many listservs – for technology, adult services, bookmobile/outreach, & more!

<http://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/staffdevelopment/Pages/listservs.aspx>

# KDLA Listservs

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# Follow KDLA on Social Media!

@KDLALibDev



KDLA CE



Visit KDLA's [Continuing Education Events Calendar](#) to find learning opportunities on a variety of topics.

- **Library Link Up: Best of 2016**  
Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Eastern/2:00 p.m. Central.
- **School Libraries Link Up: Introduction to H.A.N.D.S.**  
Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Eastern/2:00 p.m. Central.

# Save the Date!

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Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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KDLA Youth Services Consultant  
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(502) 564-1739

Thank you!

